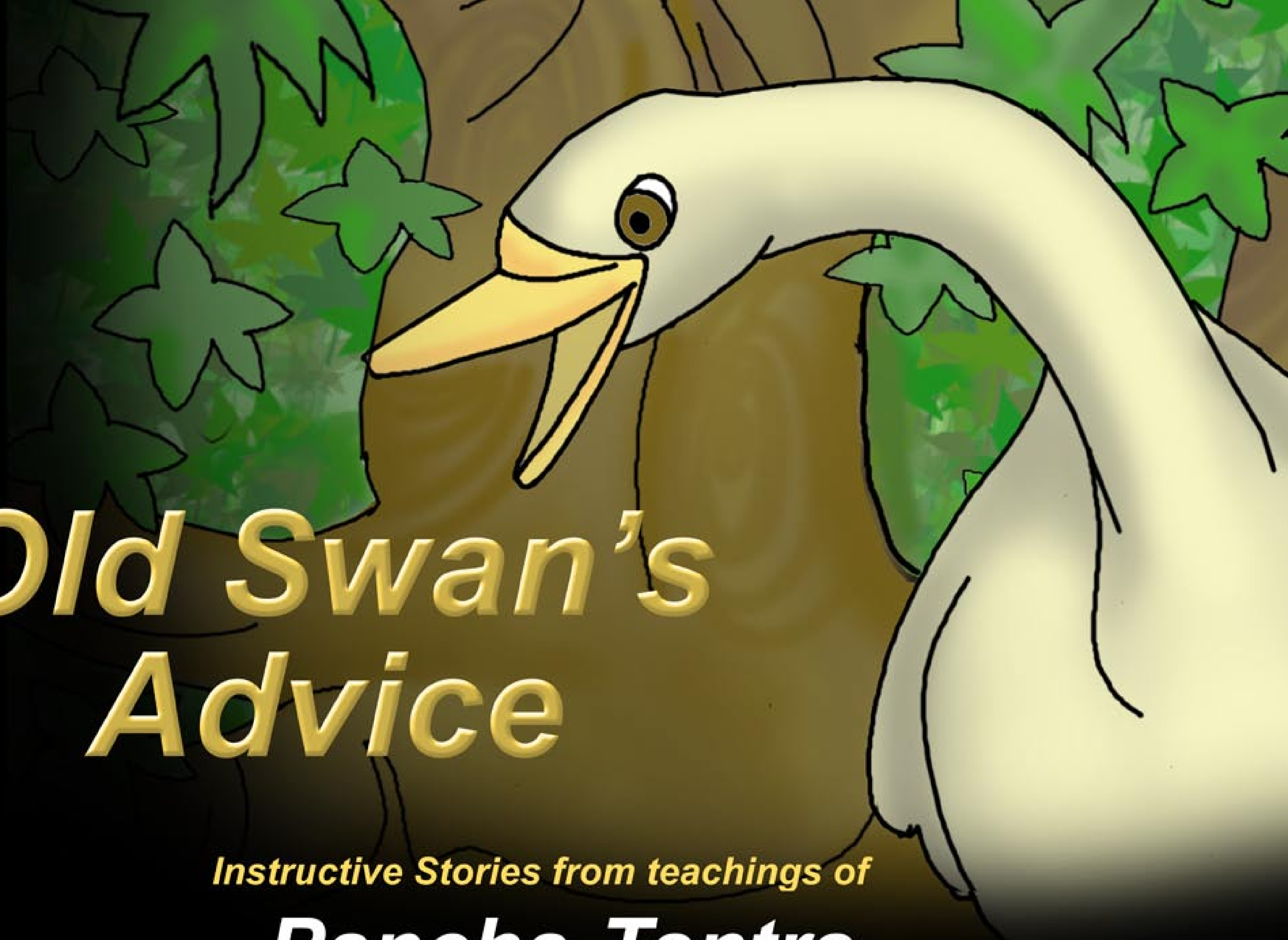


Old Swan's Advice

Instructive Stories from teachings of

Pancha-Tantra

Once in a jungle there was a beautiful lake and on the bank of the lake there was a shady banyan tree.

On this tree there lived a group of lovely white swans.




The whole day these swans used to swim in the lake and play...


They would fly high in the sky.

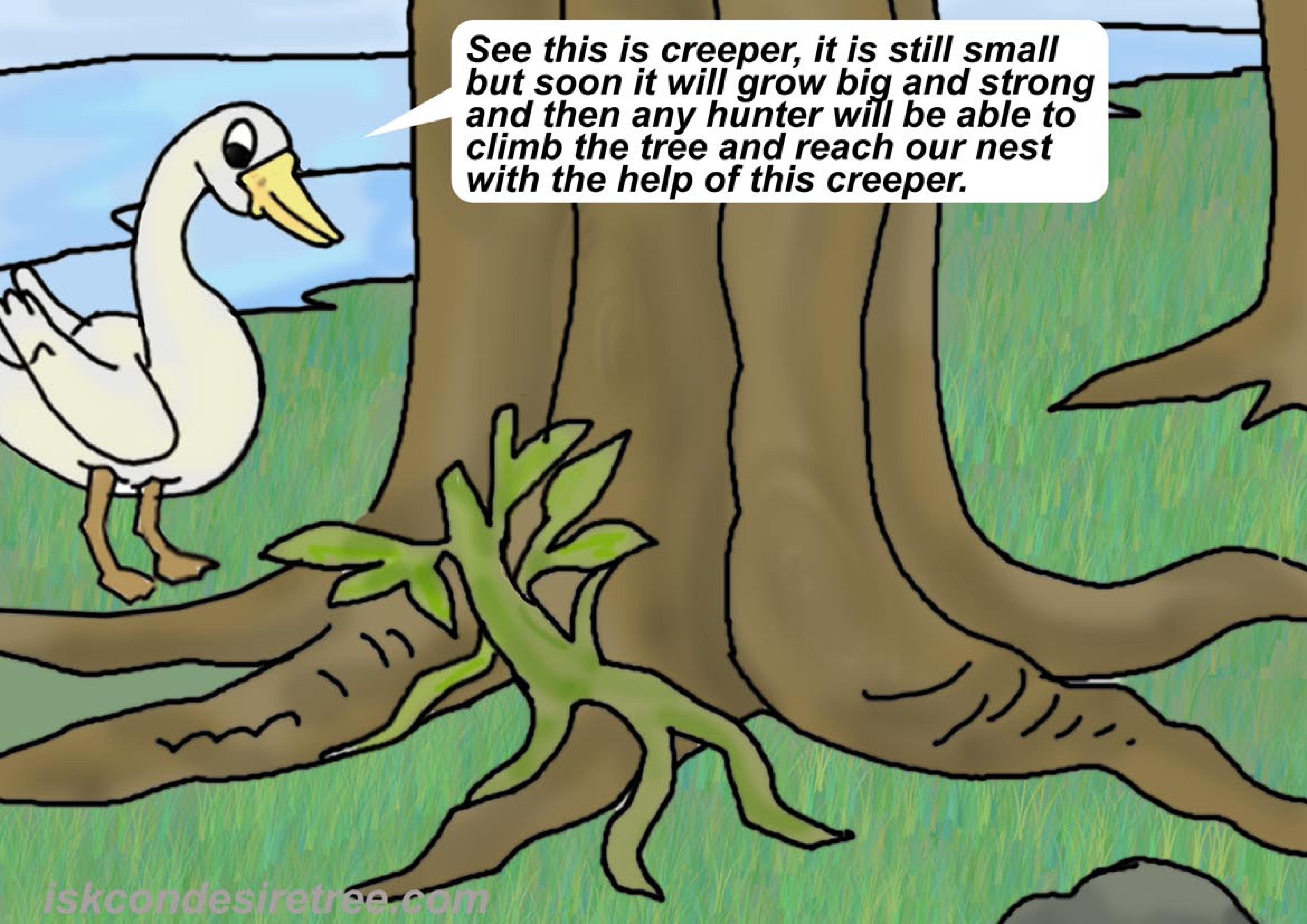

Swans would go in the morning in search of food.

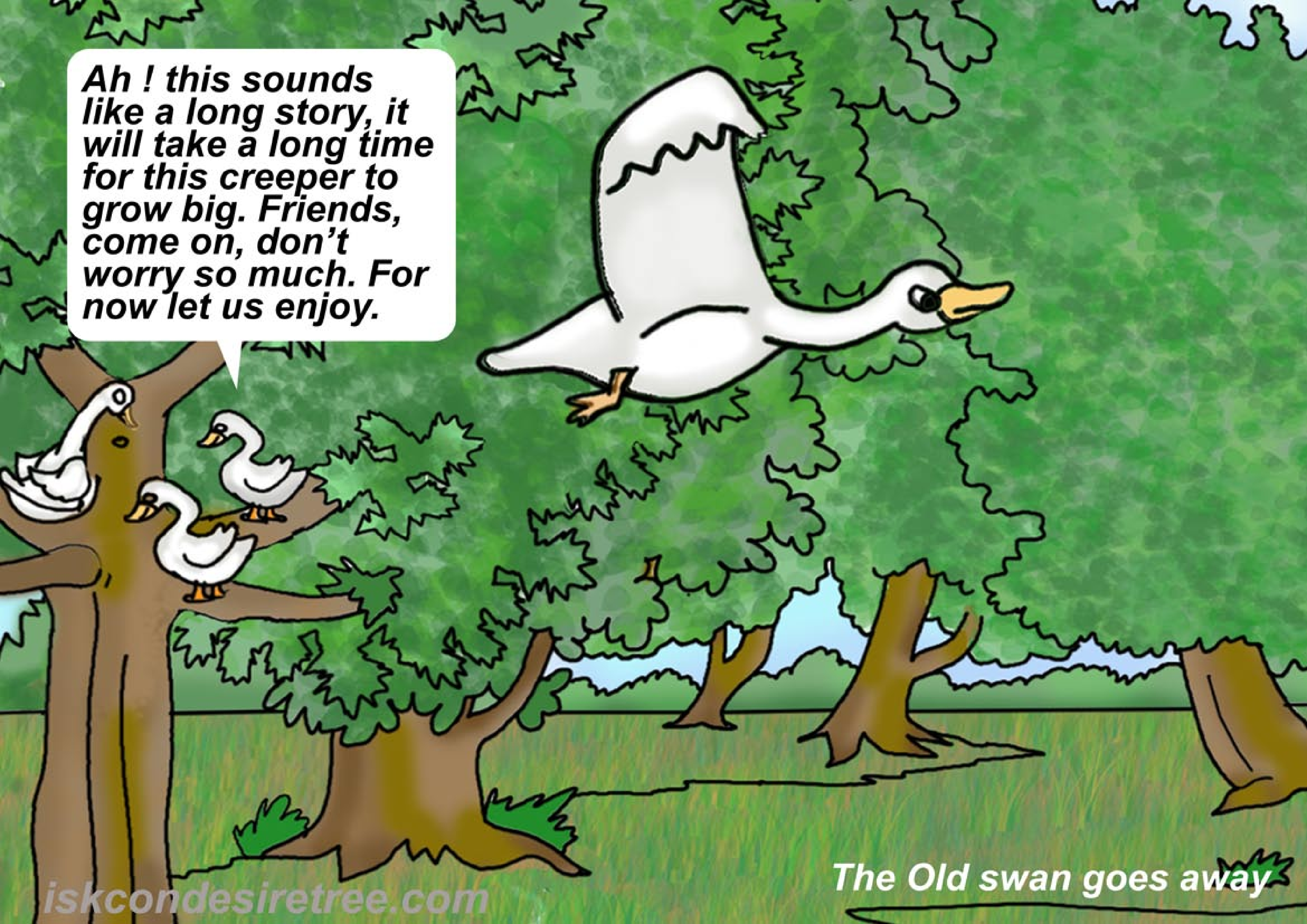

and return in the evening

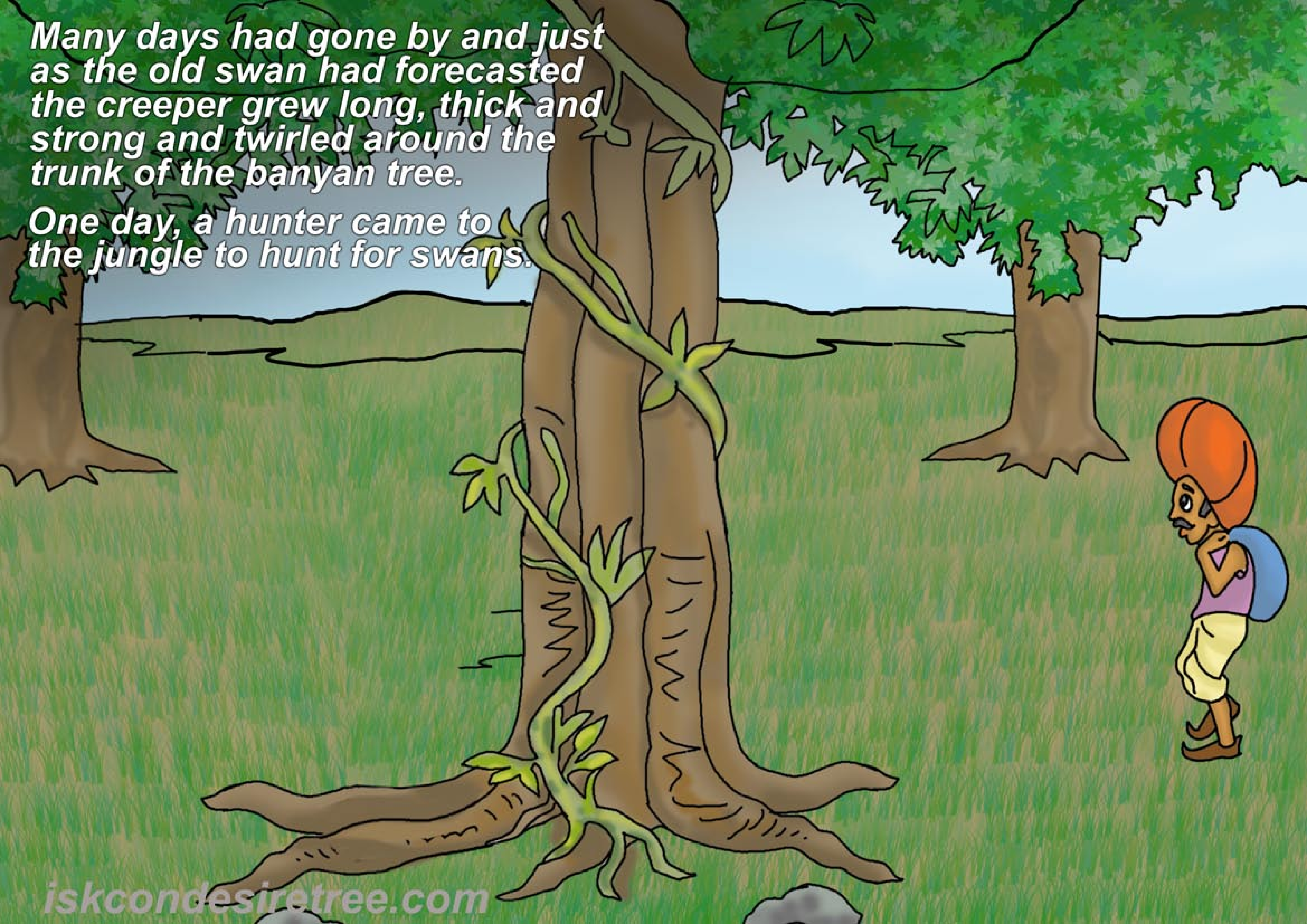
Swans had laid eggs in their nests and the babies too were growing. In this way many years passed.




But one day, one old wise swan called all the swans and told them
Oh! Friends. Now it is not safe for us to stay on this banyan tree.
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See this is creeper, it is still small but soon it will grow big and strong and then any hunter will be able to climb the tree and reach our nest with the help of this creeper.
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Ah ! this sounds like a long story, it will take a long time for this creeper to grow big. Friends, come on, don't worry so much. For now let us enjoy.
The Old swan goes away
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Many days had gone by and just as the old swan had forecasted the creeper grew long, thick and strong and twirled around the trunk of the banyan tree.

One day, a hunter came to the jungle to hunt for swans.


All the swans had gone for swim-
ming, I will climb the tree with the
help of the creeper.


There he laid the net to catch the swans and went away.


The legs and the necks of the swans were caught in the net. They desperately cried for help.
Help !
Help !
Help !
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Listening to their cry, the old swan
at once came there from the lake...
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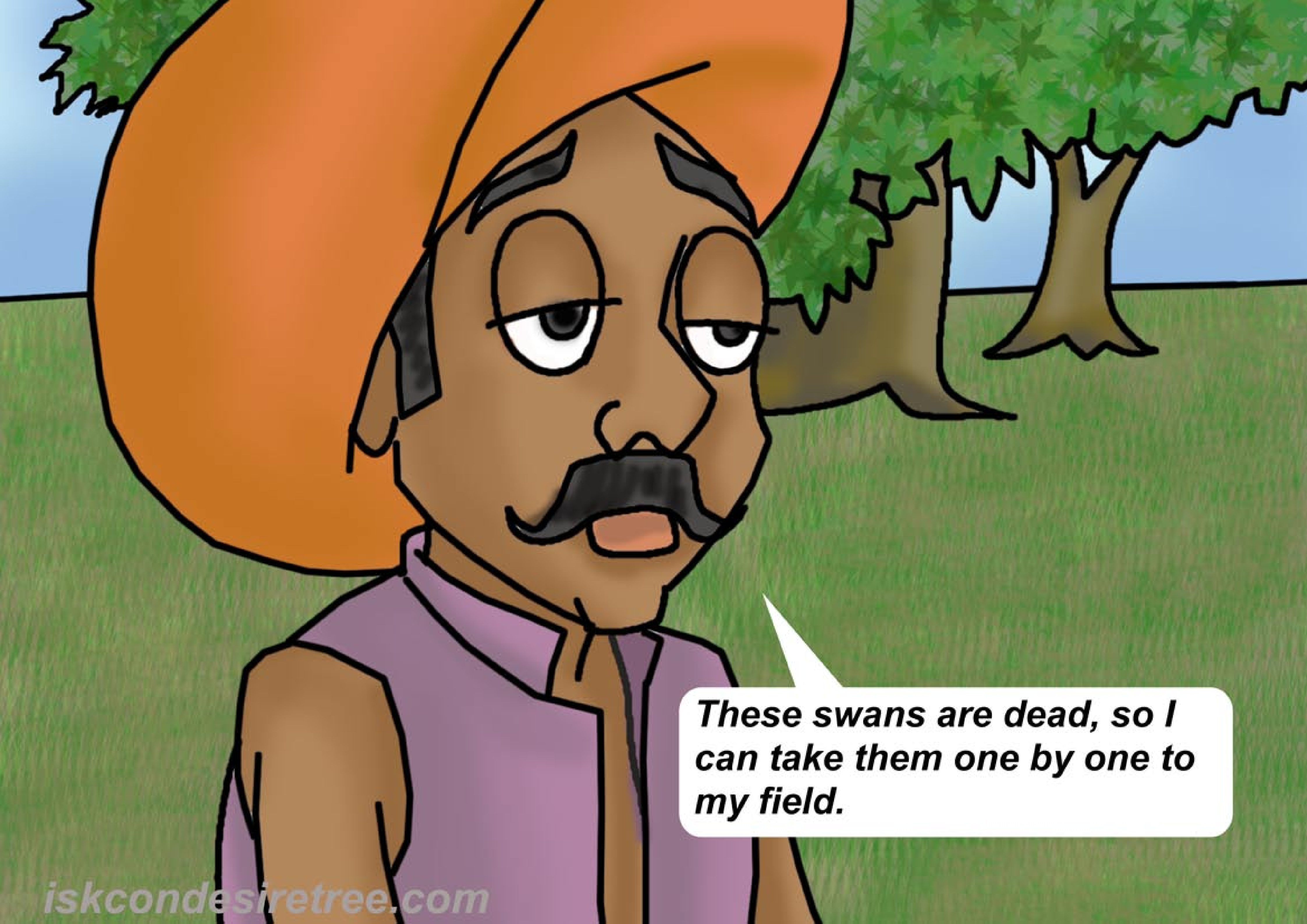

You fools, you are now trapped. You did not listen to my advice and now see the result.


Oh! Please forgive us,
we are really very sorry.
Now please get us out of
this trouble.
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The old swan gave an idea for them to escape
Alright, now listen to me carefully.


Next morning the hunter returns. He saw the swans.


He took the net down.
Oh God !!! All the swans are dead !!!
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These swans are dead, so I can take them one by one to my field.
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When he took the net off
suddenly all the swans
flew away together
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What has happened ?
My swans have escaped.
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MORAL :

In this way by following the old swan's advice, all the swans escaped from the net. From then onwards, all the swans did what the old swan said and they all lived happily.

The one who always follows the advice of elders will always be happy.